



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Colleges Can Apply for Funds to Increase Teacher Quality in K-12 Schools**

Indiana's public and private colleges are invited to apply for the *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program* grants. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education will receive approximately \$920,000 in federal funds for this competitive grant program that brings together Indiana colleges and high-need school districts to support professional development for teachers in core subjects.

The proposal deadline is 5 p.m. EDT, Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Eligible applications must include the following: 1) a postsecondary school of education, 2) a postsecondary school of arts and sciences, and 3) a high-need local education agency, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

Applications are available at [www.che.in.gov](http://www.che.in.gov).

### Required Project Components

- Aligns to Indiana's Academic Standards and the high-need school's Local Improvement Plan.
- Advances teacher knowledge and understanding of scientifically based instruction and the core academic subjects they teach.
- Includes plans for independent evaluation and program sustainability.
- Incorporates metrics and assessments to gauge project's effectiveness in improving student performance.

### Components for Project Preference

- Align classroom curriculum and instruction with expectations for college and career readiness.
- Promote strategies that engage students in rigorous, scientifically based instruction in math, reading, writing and science.
- Increase the number of highly qualified minority teachers and other underrepresented groups.

The *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program* grant is funded by and operates under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the largest federal initiative that supports professional development projects for teachers and principals—with a special focus on high-need school districts and higher education institutions. Through this legislation, state education agencies, local education agencies and state agencies for higher education receive funds on a formula basis for programs such as Indiana's *Improving Teacher Quality Partnership Program*.

